THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The total length of existing three National Waterways is 2716 km.

(b) Techno-economic feasibility studies of other waterways have been conducted and the following inland waterways are proposed for declaration as National Waterways.

(i) Kakinada-Pondicherry Canal along with rivers Godavari and Krishna (1095 km)

(ii) East Coast Canal along with river Brahmani and Mahanadi Delta (623 km)

(iii) River Barak in Assam (140 km)

(c) Buckingham Canal is included in the declaration proposal at b (i) above. After declaration as a National Waterway, infrastructure development works will be taken upon the entire stretch.

Four-Laning of National Highways

239. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway Authority of India has signed some agreements for four-laning of nearly 200 kms. of highways on BOT basis Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure involved in this project; and

(d) by when the work on the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) The details of civil work contract agreement signed by the National Highways

Authority of India on Build Operate and Transfer Basis in the State of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are as under:

Sl. No.	State	NH No.	Section	Length (Km.)	Total Project Cost (Rs. crore)	Grant (Net Present value) (Rs. Crore)	Target date of completion
1	Maharashtra	3	Pimpalgaon-Dhule	118	556	(-) 58.85	March, 2009
2	Maharashtra	3	Vadape-Gonde	100	579	80.04	April, 2009
3	Chhattisgarh	6	Raipur-Aurang	45	190	7.6	October, 2008
4	Rajasthan	11	Jaipur-Mahwa	108	483	66.39	March, 2009
5	Rajasthan	11	Mahwa-Bharatpur	57	250	61.93	October, 2008

National maritime policy

240. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether national maritime policy which envisages a comprehensive strategy for the country's maritime sector including ports, shipping, inland waterways and ship building would be submitted before the Cabinet for approval;

(b) whether this policy was finalized after draft of the proposed policy was discussed at the interministerial coordination committee meeting;

(c) if so, what are main points of maritime policy;

(d) whether Cabinet has approved it; and

(e) by when it is likely to be announced?